

# SOCIAL News-Letter ACTION

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## TOBIAS REPORTS ON EUROPE

(Editor's Note: The following article is condensed from a special report written by Robert Tobias of the Geneva staff of the World Council of Churches for the Phillips University Bulletin. Mr. Tobias is a graduate of Phillips and of Union Theological Seminary. He went to Europe at the close of the war to work with CIMADE, the French Christian student organization for relief of evacuees and was later taken over by the World Council of Churches. He has worked on both sides of the "iron curtain" with UNRRA and the World Council. With his wife, Gertrude, and their young son, he now lives in Geneva, Switzerland. He plans to do church relief work in the Balkans again this year. This report, written in July and consequently prior to the meeting of the World Council in Amsterdam, throws considerable light on the situation which confronts that organization. Mr. Tobias' analysis and comments are so pungent and timely that we have requested and received permission of the editors of the Bulletin to reproduce it for our readers. The first two paragraphs have been condensed in the first paragraph below.)

When the report was written word had just been received at Geneva that the Orthodox Church Congress had decided not to take part in the Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Amsterdam in August because the movement follows principally "political, anti-democratic and non-ecclesiastical purposes."

"The statement from Moscow," says Mr. Tobias, "if the Swiss press reports accurately, means four things:

"(1) That there is already much criticism of Christianity, especially Western Christianity, in the East, and that much more can soon be expected. Official propaganda has been made against Protestantism as a Western political infiltration, and Orthodox churches in order to maintain the confidence of their own people in the face of mounting propaganda. (sic)

"(2) That the Orthodox church leaders do not, however, wish to alienate themselves from the ecumenical movement nor from the world leaders in it. Spiritually, they consider themselves as part of it. Many theological divergencies might have been given as legitimate reasons for non-participation in the World Council. None is. The reason given may be a deliberate attempt to make it clear to ecumenical leaders that because of circumstances they cannot affiliate or even 'fraternize' at this time.

"(3) The people of the Orthodox countries (Russia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia), and possibly even their church leaders, believe that an international conflict is imminent, probably within two years. Only those circumstances (excluding erroneous or incomplete reporting) could provoke such a heavily loaded statement, directed on the one hand toward the lay people of the East, and on the other to ecumenical leaders of the West.

"(4) Consequently, the World Council of Churches will become predominantly a Western church federation whose relevance to the whole world is as the spiritual voice of Western culture, and therefore relatively impotent in the breach between the East and West until such time as Western churches become joined to their Orthodox complement. This time will be postponed longer by definitive organization of the World Council at Amsterdam this year. The Assembly might well consider continuing on a provisional basis until the Orthodox church can participate.

"So, what can we do?

"First, pray. Pray for God's mercy and forgiveness that we as a nation, as a church, as individuals, have shared in creating a situation in which the Body of Our Lord is still disunited, and we alienated from one another spiritually, in conflict with one another materially.

"Pray for wisdom to see God's judgment on us all through these world estrangements and conflicts, and to pronounce it clearly upon ourselves and the world.

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## THE WORLD CHURCH AND WORLD ORDER

WALTER W. SIKES

The World Council of Churches meeting in its first Assembly at Amsterdam received and "commended to the churches for serious consideration and appropriate action" the report of one of its four sections, entitled "The Church and the International Disorder," which will soon be available as a study document for the churches and should be widely used by Disciples as well as others.

The report declares the hopes of recent war years that peace was dawning having been dashed, "exhaustion and disillusionment have combined with spiritual apathy to produce a moral vacuum which will be filled either by Christian faith or by despair or even hatred." It is the witness of the Churches, on the other hand, "that the world is in God's hands. His purpose may be thwarted and delayed, but it cannot be finally frustrated. This is the meaning of history which forbids despair or surrender to the fascinating belief in power as a solvent of human trouble." This faith in God's purpose and His redeeming love in Christ constitutes "our hope and the ground of all our striving," the report continues. "It is required of us that we be faithful and obedient. The event is with God."

The report makes five major affirmations as to what is imperative for Christians as they live by this faith. The first has to do with Christian duty in the event of war. "War is contrary to the will of God," and is "incompatible with the teachings and example of our Lord Jesus Christ." Modern methods of warfare have so "destroyed the conditions on which law exists" that the tradition of "a just war, requiring a just cause and the use of just means, is now challenged." What attitude Christians should take toward the participation of war under these circumstances is a grave problem and one on which no agreement can as yet be reached.

At present there are three positions which the report recognizes as Christian, the supporters of each of which "the Churches must continue to hold within their full fellowship": (1) That while war "can never be an act of justice" there may be particular circumstances in which "entering a war may be a Christian's duty." (2) That "in the absence of impartial supranational institutions . . . military action is the ultimate sanction of the rule of law, and that citizens must be distinctly taught that it is their duty to defend the law by force if necessary." It will probably be very difficult for most Christians to see a clear distinction in these two positions. Apparently they amount to the same thing in practice, although the latter makes less room for criticising the "justice" of war; both hold it to be a Christian duty, at least sometimes, to go to war and otherwise support war.

(3) The third position is quite distinct, being that of Christians who are "convinced that an absolute witness against war and for peace is for them the will of God" and that they must, therefore "refuse military service of all kinds," and seek to have the Church do likewise. Furthermore the report states, as one of the "points of principle" on which all are agreed, that "The Churches . . . must not allow their spiritual and moral resources to be used by the state in war or in peace as a means of propagating an ideology or supporting a cause in which they cannot wholeheartedly concur. Since the report declares "that in international as in national life justice must be upheld," it would

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### KAGAWA TO REBUILD

During the war three of Kagawa's Christian settlement houses were destroyed by bombing, in Kobe, Tokyo and Osaka. In recognition of his 60th birthday and the 40th anniversary of his Christian service American friends have undertaken to raise \$60,000 for the rebuilding of the Shin-kawa settlement house in Kobe—\$50,000 for the building and \$10,000 for equipment. This Disciples Peace Fellowship, which has before sponsored offerings for Kawaga, is sending a letter to all its members soliciting gifts for this purpose.

The Kobe settlement was destroyed by bombs in June, 1945, only a few weeks before the surrender. Writing to Dr. J. Henry Carpenter, secretary of the American Committee, Dr. Kagawa said, "The people are now living in shacks, and the conditions are worse than when I found them 48 years ago. The number of people living around there are daily increasing and the need for a building is becoming imperative." The building proposed provides for a church, Sunday school and evangelistic activities, educational facilities, a medical clinic, industrial activities, a cooperative store and a credit union office.

In a recent letter Kagawa writes, "... I am away from home for three to four weeks in a month traveling all over Japan. I am winning from 500 to 1,000 souls a day by preaching to an average of 5,000 auditors. I can easily get about 30,000 new converts a month (those who sign decision cards to follow Christ at our meetings) in every one of the 12 provinces and 10,000 to 20,000 converts in the rest of the total 47 provinces.

Send contributions to Disciples Peace Fellowship, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

### HOW DID YOUR CONGRESSMAN VOTE?

All members of the House of Representatives and 32 Senators are up for election in November. Most of them served in the 80th Congress. Their voting record is the best available measure of their fitness to hold office. Do you know how your Congressman and Senators voted on major issues that affect your life and the lives of the American people, including our foreign relations?

Cooperating Protestant agencies in Washington have published a summary of how members of Congress voted on 16 crucial issues before the Congress.

Copies may be had at 10c each, 75c per dozen, or \$5.60 per hundred from Sales Literature, 222 South Downey, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

### WORLD ORDER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

The Department of Social Welfare has mailed to pastors samples of material for use of World Order Sunday, October 24. It is hoped that all churches will observe the day and that materials needed will be ordered from the Federal Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N.Y. By action of the General Assembly of the United Nations, October 24 has been designated as "United Nations Day" in commemoration of the signing of the U.N. Charter at San Francisco. By coincidence both World Order Sunday and United Nations Day fall on the same date this year.

## RELIEF — Here and There!

RUTH ESTES MILNER

In a recent communication from James H. McCallum, missionary and consignee for the Disciples of Christ in China, the following items are listed as prohibited articles by customs officials of that country: confectionery, toys and games, jewelry, trimmings and ornaments, toilet articles, tea and silk articles. In addition, things made of nylon, plastic and rayon are prohibited through freight or mail shipments. Special permits must be obtained to ship medicines into China according to Mr. McCallum.

The department of social welfare urges churches and individuals to use every precaution in preparing shipments for China. In fact, when in doubt about shipments to any country, always correspond with the department before initiating such a project.

*Food for British Brethren.* J. Leslie Colver, General Secretary of Churches of Christ in Great Britain writes—"We want to assure the American brethren that any food parcels sent over here are still very much appreciated . . . and that the parcels sent to us in Leicester, and given out to the brethren about us, have been much appreciated."

The things that rank first in meeting personal needs are: fats (shortening, butter, margarine), sugar, dried fruits, tinned milk, cheese. Other items which gladden the hearts of our British brethren are: tea (black or orange pekoe), pudding mixtures, jellies, rice, tinned eggs, bacon, meats, fruits and stews.

*Material Aid Still Needed.* The need for clothing, bedding and shoes is still acute in many countries. Shipments are continually going out from headquarters to Church World Service for distribution to needy areas. We urge churches to continue sending such items to us or to other collection centers (prepaid) for overseas shipment. A check to cover ocean freight at the rate of 15 cents per pound should be included in a separate letter advising the department about any shipment which is being sent. Correct addresses of CWS collection centers are:

New Windsor, Md.	7122 3/4 Compton Ave., Los Angeles 1
214 E. 21st St., New York 10	21 Eleventh St., San Francisco 3
568 First Ave. S., Seattle 4	601 S. Olympia St., New Orleans 19
510 S. Elm St., Webster Groves 19, Mo.	

*CWS Program of Assistance.* Administered on the basis of giving the German people a chance to help themselves, there are many projects making good use of raw materials sent through CWS from which needed supplies are manufactured. Bulk wheat milled into flour furnishes bread for thousands of people, employment for a sizable number and the by-products supply livestock with food. Raw wool, cotton, paper pulp and cellulose are also used in this self-help program. Supervision is carried on by Hilfswerk, German Protestant relief agency, which is helping to supply physical needs and to restore German economy and morale.

Ship raw materials through CROP, 308 W. Washington St., Chicago 6, Ill., the rural program of Church World Service. This self-help program is also sponsored in other lands.

*CARE Extended to Japan.* At the request of General MacArthur the non-profit CARE gift packages may be ordered for Japan, and ten thousand special food packages are already there ready for distribution at the standard cost of \$10.00 each, including delivery. If you have no special friend in Japan, send a parcel to Kagawa (603 Nichome, Kami Kitazawa; Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, Japan.) He will see that your parcel reaches a family in special need. It has also been announced that CARE parcels are now deliverable in the Russian zones of Germany. CARE's office is at 50 Broad St., New York 4, N.Y.

*New Type of Food Package.* While CARE packages probably offer the most economical method of sending food to war-devastated areas, attention is called to the fact that Overseas Associates, Inc., 136 W. 22nd Street, New York 11, N.Y. provides packages of somewhat greater variety ranging from (Continued on Page 4, Column 1)



## ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

SHIPPING CARTEL ALLEGED. On August 8 the *New York Star* (formerly *PM*) carried a United Press release from Washington stating that the Department of Justice had filed a civil suit in Newark, N.J., against 25 steamship lines to secure an agreement or a court order to break up a closed-shop cartel arrangement giving the defendant companies a monopoly on virtually the entire cargo trade between Atlantic and Gulf ports and the Far East. The American steamship lines involved, in addition to six British, six Norwegian, four Philippine, two Danish and a Scotch line, are Waterman Steamship Line, United States Lines, State Marine Corporation, Lykes Brothers Steamship Co., American President Lines, Ltd., and Isthmian Steamship Co. All the defendant companies are alleged to belong to what is known as the Far East Conference, which requires shippers to patronize conference members exclusively, giving lower rates in return for this monopoly and penalizing any shipper who patronizes a non-conference line. The arrangement, it is alleged, gives the conference control over American steamship lines and enables foreign lines to set rates for American shipping, including those of the government.

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NOTES ON HUMAN RELATIONS. Along with many discouraging developments in the field of human relations, including the repudiation of civil rights by Southern Democrats, egg-throwing at Mr. Henry Wallace, and cross-burning initiations by the Ku Klux Klan, some noteworthy and significant things are happening. For instance, at the commencement exercises of the University of South Carolina, Rev. R. B. Herbert, commencement speaker, made a strong plea for interracial justice and goodwill, demanding that qualified Negroes be given the vote and urging that election laws be administered with absolute fairness and impartiality. . . . In Richmond, Virginia, C. W. Hill, Negro attorney, was elected to the city council, with one-third of his votes believed to have been cast by white supporters. The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* commented that since Richmond's population is nearly one-third Negro it is only natural and proper that this segment of the city's life have representation on the council. Mr. Hill is the second Negro to win a seat on a local governing body within a year, the other having been elected to the board of supervisors of Nansemond County. . . . At its commencement exercises on June 1, Harvard University conferred the honorary degree Doctor of Laws upon Dr. Charles S. Johnson, president of Fisk University, citing him as an educator, author, and social statesman, "wise in his unrelenting efforts to move America forward toward our historical goals of real equality and justice." Dr. Johnson was elected president of Fisk last year after serving with distinction as head of its social science department for nearly 20 years. He is the first Negro to head Fisk University.

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NEW CIVIL RIGHTS COUNCIL. Announcement is made of the organization of the National Citizen's Committee on Civil Rights (not to be confused with the left-wing Civil Rights Congress), with headquarters in the Willkie Memorial Building, New York City and sponsored by such representative Americans as Dr. Harry Gideonse, the Rev. George B. Ford, William L. Batt, Charles C. Burlingham, former Governor Herbert H. Lehman, James B. Carey (CIO), Gardner Cowles, William Green (AFL), Gerard Swope, Eric Johnston, and others. The new organization will devote itself to efforts to make the Recommendations of the President's Committee on Civil Rights effective in local communities with local leaders assuming responsibility. It believes that America's moral force as a power for world peace depends in large part on the status of civil rights at home and that failure to make progress toward greater recognition of basic human rights means retreat for democracy.

## SCIENCE PRODUCES NEW TERROR

JAMES A. CRAIN

The depths to which modern science devoid of ethical and spiritual disciplines and conscripted to the service of the war machine can fall is described in flesh-creeping terms by Ladislav Farago in the leading article in *United Nations World's* anniversary issue, February 1948, entitled, "Tabun: The Gas That Drives Men Mad." Farago is editorial director of the magazine and shares editorial responsibility with Thomas Mann, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vincent Sheean, Lin Yutang and Louis Dolivet.

According to Farago, the most horrible weapon developed during World War II was not the atom bomb, but a mysterious gas developed by German scientists, known as "Tabun" or "Sarin." The gas was produced in considerable quantities but was never used, though Goebbels urged its use as a last desperate measure at a war conference called by Hitler in his command bunker in Berlin in February 1945. Later the whole story was revealed by Dr. Albert Speer, Reichsminister of Armament under Hitler, in the Nuremberg trials. Speer was appalled by Goebbels' proposal and planned to use the gas (then under his control) on Hitler and his entourage by introducing it into the ventilating system of Hitler's bunker, but Hitler, with diabolical forethought, had a protective chimney constructed around the ventilating funnels.

"Tabun," to use the code name for the chemical horror, is an invisible, odorless, tasteless gas that has no effect on skin or lungs, but attacks only the nervous system. A few whiffs of contaminated air containing only a few milligrams of it sets up an "irreversible" process of brain and nerve degeneration that brings a horrible death within a few hours. Its efficacy is due to the fact that the nervous systems of all living creatures function by means of an obscure chemical, "choline esterase," which is necessary to the electrical functioning of the brain and nervous system and which, when destroyed, first drives the victim mad and then produces death, all within a very few hours.

The discovery grew out of the pioneer work of Dr. O. Meyerhoff and Dr. David Nachmanson, of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin, both of whom had to leave Germany when Hitler came to power. Meyerhoff went to Philadelphia and Nachmanson to Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. Nachmanson discovered that choline esterase is the one essential to nerve functioning and that when this chemical is destroyed life comes to an end. This seemingly harmless scientific discovery, in harmony with the policy of scientists, was shared with the scientific fraternity throughout the world. But in the hands of German scientists it was not harmless.

Under Hitler's direction Tabun, or "Sarin," was produced in considerable quantities. When Germany collapsed American advanced intelligence teams discovered 16,000 bombs filled with the deadly poison in a bomb depot near Leipzig and a few days later, near Hamburg, thousands of what at first looked like wooden coffins, each containing a single Tabun bomb. One of the chief production centers is now in the Russian zone of Germany where quantities of the product were found intact. Some of the chemists who worked on its production are now in Russia, others in the U.S., in Britain, and in France.

Word that Germany had a new and dreadful gas that attacked the nerves first came to the U.S. Chemical Warfare Service in 1944. Later the actual formula was secured through intelligence sources, but the production process was still unknown. Then began one of the most intense scientific efforts ever made by man. At one time the Toxicity Laboratory of the University of Chicago alone carried out tests on 1,500 gases, using 70,000 volunteers. Finally a gas (DFP) was produced that had the correct ingredients and seemed to have the same characteristics as Tabun, but when tested its effects were found to be "reversible," that is, nerves ex-

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"Pray for a spirit of unity which will overwhelm us with the unshakeable conviction that we are members of one another—black part of white, rich of poor, West of East, sinner of saint, and today an inseparable part of yesterday and tomorrow.

"And pray thanking God that we have a means of spiritual fellowship which cannot be broken—a Conciliator, a Redeemer, a Lord and Father of us all before whom we may come together.

"Second, demonstrate! Over here this is not a day when words mean much. Even actions are suspect, but less so than promises and speeches.

"If Protestantism is not another guise for Western politics, then what about Negroes, labor, economic justice, spiritual community and responsibility to each other and for each other as individuals and as nations? Is it Christianity in its highest form that is represented in the Protestant churches' demonstration of 'love'? Do they express Christianity's concern for *all* in need? If so, why then are those of a preferred political color favored? With the exception of Germany, the greatest need for food and clothing in Europe this winter will be east of the 'iron curtain'. Those needs are being presented to the Protestant churches. Dare they act?

"If the churches of the West enjoy full freedom, then do they represent what all churches would be and do if those churches were not encompassed about on every hand? Does Protestant Christianity represent the universality of Christianity—these churches of the West which send missionaries to 'convert' Orthodox Christians? People of the East, Christians and non-Christians alike, will hear questions and rumors and will wonder.

"We must recognize by our deeds that these Eastern Orthodox brethren are brethren, not heathens! And that our enthusiasm and 'application' of Christianity may be complementary to, and complemented by, their deep sense of spiritual community.

"The cutting edge of the blade of Tomorrow is precisely in this twilight zone where two variations of Christianity, two political and economic ideologies, and two cultures overlap.

"We dare not, as did a well-known international church figure some days ago, try to identify Christ with the West. Instead, as it has been so well said, 'It is the bounden duty of the churches in the Western countries to give all support humanly possible to churches in Eastern countries, for they alone can keep alive the spark of Western civilization.'

"As *above* the world, the Church (even the segment called Protestantism) must pronounce judgment on East and West alike—just as *in* the world, it must be responsible for the world. The Church must be so neutral as to be objective. It must be so concerned as to be wholly involved. It must be so God-guided that it cannot be divided, East from West, by economic wedges, by political ambitions or blunders, by social classes, by wars or rumors of wars.

"What can we do? After prayer, our first task, and our last hope, is to demonstrate and to be the Universal Church—as a Protestant segment, as a local congregation and as one professing Christian."

**RELIEF—Cont. from Page 2**

ing in price from \$3.98 to \$29.50. The concern gives Chase National Bank, New York, as reference.

*Goats Going to Japan.* The Heifer Project Committee reports the shipment of 821 goats as of July 13. Shipments will continue through October 16 and the total amount is expected to reach 2,000 which the Army agreed to handle from April 18 through October 16. The plan called for 300 goats to be shipped every fifteen days. The HPC announces the price of a milk goat is still \$50.00 which includes purchase of the animal and delivery to shipside.

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seem quite difficult for those who also hold that war "can never be an act of justice" to "whole-heartedly concur" in a cause requiring participation in war for its support.

These dilemmas which confront Christians today indicate how desperately the Christian mind and heart the world over need the guidance of the spirit of Christ. They also make more urgent, if that were possible, that Christians regard more seriously their task in averting war.

"Peace requires an attack on the causes of conflict between the powers," is the strategy suggested in the second chief affirmation of the report. While declaring "we utterly oppose totalitarianism wherever found," the report holds that Christianity must not be equated with any economic or political system and that "a positive attempt must be made to ensure that competing economic systems such as Communism, Socialism, or free enterprise may co-exist without leading to war."

The second-mentioned strategy recommended is the establishment of international institutions, with surrender of "a greater measure of national sovereignty," which will bring the nations under the rule of law. Beyond this there must be achieved "the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms," to which end the Churches must oppose "with all the resources at their disposal . . . enforced segregation on grounds of race or color," especially "in their own membership and life, thus giving to others an example of what freedom means in practice."

And finally, the Churches, "guilty both of indifference and failure must face anew their obligations . . . to pray for all men, . . . to combat both hatred and resignation in regard to war; to support negotiation rather than primary reliance upon arms," and to sustain national policies reflecting Christian principles.

**SCIENCE PRODUCES—Cont. from Page 3**

posed to it were only temporarily affected and recovered. Dr. Nachmanson, was then appealed to and, putting aside his scruples, entered the service of the country which had given him refuge. The scientific research was redoubled, using every avenue offering possibilities, including the sending of an Army expedition to hack its way to the upper region of the Amazon in Brazil to obtain a supply of the so-called "electric eels," which produce large quantities of choline esterase to maintain their powerful electric organisms. One hundred and eighteen of these were shipped from Brazil to New York by military plane. Using them as experimental subjects, Dr. Nachmanson discovered that the Chicago formula was correct and failed only because the tests were not efficiently conducted. The nerve tissue was exposed to the gas for too short a time to permit the lethal effects to take place. The error arose from the fact that the amount of choline esterase in the human body is three to four times as much as is needed in order to permit nerve function and that death results only when 90 percent of the compound has been destroyed.

Captured German records show that when a herd of goats was exposed to Tabun in its vaporized form the animals at first showed no effects other than becoming violently ill. Then, in an instant, they all became rampant maniacs, killing each other in uncontrollable fury. Those that survived the homicidal tendencies died in agony a short time afterwards. Post mortems revealed that the gas had degenerated certain parts of the brain, developing in them murderous tendencies and other forms of mental disease. It was the result of the goat herd experiment, said Dr. Speer, that determined him to defy Hitler.

Perhaps the most sobering thought that comes from this story is the willingness of nations, including our own, to use all the marvels of modern science for the purposes of war. Is there any limit to which military leaders will not go in their search for weapons of destruction? And is there any act, no matter how revolting, to which scientists, along with other men, will not stoop at the command of the military?